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(54) Title: HETEROCYCLIC METALLOCENES AND POLYMERIZATION CATALYSTS			
(57) Abstract			
<p>A new class of heterocyclic metallocenes, a catalytic system containing them and a process for polymerizing addition polymerizable monomers using said catalytic system are disclosed; the heterocyclic metallocenes correspond to the formula (I): $Y_jR^{''}iZ_{jj},MeQ_kP_l$ wherein Y is a coordinating group containing a six π electron central radical directly coordinating Me, to which are associated one or more radicals containing at least one non-carbon atom selected from B, N, O, Al, Si, P, S, Ga, Ge, As, Se, In, Sn, Sb and Te; R'' is a divalent bridge between the Y and Z groups; Z is a coordinating group, optionally being equal to Y; Me is a transition metal; Q is halogen or hydrocarbon substituents; P is a counterion; i is 0 or 1; j is 1-3; jj is 0-2; k is 1-3; and l is 0-2.</p>			

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HETEROCYCLIC METALLOCENES AND POLYMERIZATION CATALYSTS**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to new heterocyclic metallocenes and to catalytic systems for the production of homopolymers and copolymers having a wide range of properties, including linear low density, high density, atactic, isotactic and syndiotactic polymers.

More particularly, this invention relates to a new class of metallocenes containing at least one heteroatom in a ring system associated with a six π electron central radical directly coordinating a transition metal, said metallocene being capable of polymerizing addition polymerizable monomers.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Polymerization of vinyl monomers, both mono-olefins and conjugated dienes, has focused on transition metal catalysts since the work of Ziegler and Natta. These catalysts are based on a central transition metal ion or atom surrounded by a set of coordinating ligands and modified by various cocatalysts.

By controlling the nature of the ligand system, the central transition metal ion or atom, and the co-catalyst, highly active catalytic agents can be made. In addition, catalysts can be made that yield polymers with high degrees of addition regularity, and in the case of non-ethylene type monomers, stereoregular or tacticoselective and/or tacticospecific polymers can be made.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,051,690 discloses a process of polymerizing olefins to controlled high molecular weight polymers by the controlled addition of hydrogen to a polymerization system that includes a hydrocarbon insoluble reaction product of a Group IVB, VB, VIB and VIII compound and an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, zinc, earth metal or rare earth metal organometallic compound. It is further known that certain metallocenes, such as bis(cyclopentadienyl) titanium or zirconium dialkyls, in combination with aluminum alkyl/water cocatalysts, form homogeneous catalyst systems for the polymerization of ethylene.

German Patent Application 2,608,863 discloses the use of a catalyst system for the polymerization of ethylene, consisting of bis(cyclopentadienyl) titanium dialkyl, aluminum trialkyl and water. Furthermore, German Patent Application 2,608,933 discloses an ethylene polymerization catalyst system including a catalyst of general formula $(Cp)_nZrY_{4-n}$, where n is a number from 1 to 4 and Y is a hydrocarbon group or a metallocalkyl in combination with an aluminum trialkyl cocatalyst and water (Cp indicates cyclopentadienyl).

European Patent Appl. No. 0035242 discloses a process for preparing ethylene and atactic propylene polymers in the presence of a halogen-free Ziegler catalyst system of general formula $(Cp)_nMeY_{4-n}$, where n is an integer from 1 to 4, Me is a transition metal, especially zirconium, and Y is either

hydrogen, a C₁-C₅ alkyl, a metallocalkyl group or other radical, in combination with an alumoxane.

U.S. Patent No. 5,324,800 discloses a catalyst system for polymerizing olefins including a metallocene catalyst of general formula (C₅R'_m)_p R''_s (C₅R'_m) MeQ_{3-p} or R''_s (C₅R'_m)₂ MeQ', where (C₅R'_m) is a substituted Cp group, and an alumoxane.

Polyolefins can be prepared in a variety of configurations that correspond to the manner in which each new monomer unit is added to a growing polyolefin chain. For non-ethylene-polyolefins four basic configurations are commonly recognized, i.e. atactic, hemi-isotactic, isotactic and syndiotactic.

A given polymer may incorporate regions of each configurational type, not exhibiting the pure or nearly pure configuration.

On the opposite polymers of monomers symmetrically equivalent to ethylene (i.e., the 1,1 substituents are identical and the 2,2 substituents are identical, sometimes referred to as "ethylene-like monomers") can have no tacticity.

Atactic polymers exhibit no regular order of repeat unit orientation in the polymer chain, i.e. the substituents are not regularly ordered relative to a hypothetical plane containing the polymer backbone (the plane is oriented such that the substituents on the pseudo-asymmetric carbon atoms are either above or below the plane). Instead, atactic polymers exhibit a random distribution of substituent orientations.

Additionally, other type of catalyst belonging to the family of metallocene catalyst are the so-called "constrained geometry catalysts", where one of the cyclopentadienyl groups has been replaced by a heteroatom ligand, such as an amino or phosphino anion. Such catalysts are described in United States Patents No: 5,453,410, 5,399,635, and 5,350,723.

Besides metallocene catalyst that produce polyethylene and atactic polyolefins, certain metallocenes are also known to produce polymers with varying degrees of stereoregularity or tactic specificity, such as isotactic, syndiotactic, and hemi-isotactic polymers, which have unique and regularly repeating stereochemistries or substituent orientations relative to the plane containing the polymer backbone.

Isotactic polymers have the substituents attached to the asymmetric carbon atoms oriented on the same side, relative to the polymer backbone, i.e. the substituents are all either configured above or below the plane containing the polymer backbone. Isotacticity can be determined through the use of NMR. In conventional NMR nomenclature, an isotactic pentad is represented by "mmmm" where each "m" represents a "meso" dyad or successive monomer units having the substituents oriented on the same side relative to the polymer backbone. As is well known in the art, any inversion of a pseudo-asymmetric carbon in the chain lowers the degree of isotacticity and crystallinity of the polymer.

In contrast, the syndiotactic structure is typically described as having the substituents attached to the asymmetric carbon atoms, disposed pseudo-enantiomorphically, i.e., the substituents are oriented alternately and regularly above and below the plane containing the polymer chain. Syndiotacticity can also be determined through the use of NMR. In NMR nomenclature, a syndiotactic pentad is represented by "rrrr", wherein each "r" represents a "racemic" dyad, i.e. successive substituents on alternate sides of the plane. The percentage of "r" dyads in the chain determines the degree of syndiotacticity of the polymer.

There are other variations in polymer structures as well. For instance, hemi-isotactic polymers are ones in which every other pseudo-asymmetric carbon atom has its substituent oriented on the same side relative to the plane containing the polymer backbone. While, the other pseudo-asymmetric carbon atoms can have their substituents oriented randomly, either above or below the plane. Since only every other pseudo-asymmetric carbon is in an isotactic configuration, the term hemi is applied.

Isotactic and syndiotactic polymers are crystalline polymers and are insoluble in cold xylene. Crystallinity distinguishes both syndiotactic and isotactic polymers from hemi-isotactic and atactic polymers, that are soluble in cold xylene and are non-crystalline. While it is possible for a catalyst to produce all four types of polymers (atactic, hemi-isotactic, isotactic

and syndiotactic), it is desirable for a catalyst to produce predominantly or essentially isotactic or syndiotactic polymers having very little atactic contents and few stereochemical defects.

Several catalysts that produce isotactic polyolefins are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,794,096 and 4,975,403, as well as European Pat. Appl. 0,537,130. Several catalysts that produce syndiotactic polyolefins are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,258,455, 3,305,538; 3,364,190, 4,852,851, 5,155,080, 5,225,500, and 5,459,117.

Besides neutral metallocenes, cationic metallocenes are known to result in polymers with varying degrees of tactic specificity. Cationic metallocene catalysts are disclosed in European Patent Applications 277,003 and 277,004. Catalysts that produce hemi-isotactic polyolefins are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,036,034.

In addition to homopolymers of monoolefins, polymerization catalysts for preparing copolymers of monoolefins, or polymers of di-functional olefins, or copolymers of di-functional olefins and monoolefins can be prepared using coordinated metal catalysts, including metallocene catalysts.

Although many metallocene catalysts are now available, the need for new ligand systems and new metallocene catalysts or catalyst precursors for the polymerization of olefins is still important and would represent a significant advancement in the

art. Such new ligand systems and the catalysts derived therefrom can offer new design approaches for making highly-stereoregular or tacticospecific polymers essentially free of defects, polymers with controlled defect statistics, and copolymers with controlled properties, or new approaches for molecular weight control and for the control of other polymer properties.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a new class of heterocyclic metallocenes for the polymerization of olefins useful to prepare polymer products with desired properties, such as a given molecular weight, molecular weight distribution, density, tacticity and/or terminal unsaturation.

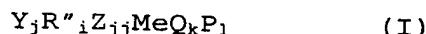
The metallocenes according to the present invention contain at least one heteroatom in a ring system associated with a six π electron central radical directly coordinating a transition metal belonging to Group 3, 4, 5, 6 or to the lanthanide or actinide series of the Periodic Table of the Elements (IUPAC version).

Said metallocenes are useful for the polymerization of addition polymerizable monomers, such as α -olefins, into homopolymers and/or copolymers.

The metallocenes of the present invention comprise organometallic coordination compounds of mono, di or tri-functional ligand systems coordinated to transition metal

complexes, preferably complexes of an element of Group 3, 4, or 5 or of the lanthanide series of elements from the Periodic Table, where the ligand system includes at least one six π electron central radical to which are associated one or more radicals containing at least one heteroatom.

The metallocenes of the present invention correspond to formula (I):



wherein

- (1) Y is a coordinating group containing a six π electron central radical directly coordinating Me, to which are associated one or more radicals containing at least one non-carbon atom selected from B, N, O, Al, Si, P, S, Ga, Ge, As, Se, In, Sn, Sb and Te;
- (2) R'' is a divalent bridge between the Y and Z groups;
- (3) Z is a coordinating group having the same meanings as Y or is an open pentadienyl containing group, a cyclopentadienyl containing group, a heterocyclic cyclopentadienyl containing group, a nitrogen containing group, a phosphorous containing group, an oxygen containing group or a sulfur containing group;
- (4) Me is an element belonging to Group 3, 4, 5, 6 or to the lanthanide or actinide series of the Periodic Table of Elements;

(5) Q is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl radical, aryl radical, alkylaryl radical, arylalkyl radical or a halogen atom;

(6) P is a stable non-coordinating or pseudo non-coordinating counterion;

(7) i is an integer having a value of 0 or 1;

(8) j is an integer having a value from 1 to 3;

(9) jj is an integer having a value from 0 to 2;

(10) k is an integer having a value from 1 to 3; and

(11) l is an integer having a value from 0 to 2.

Moreover, formula (I) also describes cationic metallocenes where l=1 or 2. Said cationic metallocenes can be prepared by reacting an ion-pair or a strong Lewis acid compound with a neutral metallocene (i.e., l=0) to form a cationic metallocene, either prior to or concurrent with contacting the neutral metallocene with monomer. Cationic metallocenes are used analogously to neutral ones to polymerize addition polymerizable monomers.

Another object of the present invention is a class of ligands of formula (II):



wherein Y, R'', Z, j, i and jj have the meanings reported above; said ligands are useful as intermediates in the preparation of the heterocyclic metallocenes of the present invention.

Another object of the present invention is a catalytic system for the polymerization of addition polymerisable monomers, comprising the reaction product between:

- an heterocyclic metallocene of formula (I) and
- a suitable co-catalyst.

The present invention further provides a process for polymerizing addition polymerizable monomers comprising contacting at least one of the above catalytic systems with at least one addition polymerizable monomer. Preferably, the metallocene and the monomer are contacted together in a reaction zone. Alternatively, the metallocenes of formula (I) can be combined with a co-catalyst, such as an alkyl aluminum or an alumoxane, either prior to or after the metallocene of formula (I) is brought into contact with monomer.

Furthermore, the metallocenes of formula (I) may be used for pre-polymerization before polymerisation with bulk monomer and/or prior to the stabilization of the reaction conditions.

The present invention can also be practiced to produce intimate blends of different types of polymers by contacting a metallocene of formula (I) designed for each different polymer type with one or more monomers.

The preferred applications of practicing this invention is in the production of polyethylene, polyethylene copolymers, isotactic, syndiotactic, hemi-isotactic or atactic polypropylene, or mixtures thereof, polypropylene copolymers,

as well as polymers and copolymers of other addition polymerizable monomers.

The present invention further includes methods for preparing metallocenes of formula (I) and their ligands, and methods for activating the metallocenes of formula (I) where $l=0$ into catalytically active polymerization agents.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In the present detailed description the following definitions are used:

"Central Radical" means a six π electron radical directly coordinating the transition metal, such as the five member ring in cyclopentadiene, indene or fluorene;

"HCy" means a ligand including a central six π electron radical having an associated radical containing at least one heteroatom;

"Cp" means a cyclopentadienyl ring;

"HCp" means a Cp ring containing one or more heteroatoms;

"Op" means an open pentadienyl ligand having five atoms in an all cis configuration and having six π electrons delocalized over the five atoms;

The "h-" prefix will be used to connote the heterocyclic analogs of aromatic ring systems containing a central five membered ring and a heterocyclic fused ring, e.g. h-Ind for an indene or indane ring system containing at least one heteroatom

in the six membered ring of the fused ring system, h-Flu for a fluorene or fluorane ring system containing at least one heteroatom in one or both of the six membered rings of the fused ring system, or h-Pta for a pentalene or pentalane ring system containing a least one heteroatom in only one of the fused five membered rings of the pentalene ring system; and "o-" prefix will be used to connote the open-pentadienyl analog of above described fused ring systems

The Applicant found a new class of heterocyclic metallocenes with wide application for the production of polymers of addition polymerizable monomers; said metallocenes present two to three coordinating ligands, where at least one of said coordinating ligands has a central six π electron radical directly coordinated to a suitable transition metal, to which is associated a group containing at least one heteroatom (sometimes abbreviated "HCy" group). The electrons in the HCy group can be delocalized over the entire groups.

The present invention is directed towards metallocenes and catalytic systems containing them useful in the polymerization of addition polymerizable monomers. In particular, the present invention is directed towards metallocenes and catalytic systems for the polymerization of polymerizable vinyl monomers, including α -olefins (such as ethylene, propylene and butylene) to produce polymers such as linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE), high density polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene

(isotactic, syndiotactic, hemi-isotactic, atactic or mixtures thereof). The resulting polymers are intended for fabrication into articles by extrusion, injection molding, thermoforming, rotational molding, or other techniques known in the state of the art.

The polymers which can be prepared using the metallocenes of this invention include homopolymers and copolymers of vinyl monomers, having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms, and preferably from 2 to 12 carbon atoms; said vinyl monomers are preferably ethylene, propylene, butylene and styrene. In addition, said vinyl monomers can also include various heteroatoms, such as acrylonitrile and vinyl pyridine.

The heterocyclic metallocenes of this invention contain one or more mono-, bi- and/or tri-functional ligands coordinated to, complexed with, or otherwise associated with a suitable transition metal, where at least one of said ligands is a HCY ligand coordinating the transition metal.

Particularly preferred heterocyclic metallocenes of the present invention include those represented by formula (I):



where:

(1) Y is a coordinating ligand comprising a six π electron central radical, directly coordinating Me, to which is associated a group containing at least one non-carbon atom

selected from B, N, O, Al, Si, P, S, Ga, Ge, As, Se, In, Sn, Sb and Te;

- (2) R" is a divalent bridge linking Y and Z and can be a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkenyl radical, a C₃-C₁₂ bicyclic radical, an aryl radical or a diaryl allyl radical, said radicals optionally containing silicon, germanium, phosphorous, nitrogen, boron or aluminum atoms;
- (3) Z is a coordinating group having the same meanings as Y or is an open pentadienyl containing group, a cyclopentadienyl containing group, a heterocyclic cyclopentadienyl containing group, a nitrogen containing group, a phosphorous containing group, an oxygen containing group or a sulfur containing group;
- (4) Me is an element belonging to Group 3, 4, or 5 or to the lanthanide series, preferably Lu, La, Nd, Sm, or Gd;
- (5) Q is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl radical, aryl radical, alkylaryl radical, arylalkyl radical or a halogen atom;
- (6) P is a stable non-coordinating or pseudo non-coordinating counterion;
- (7) i is an integer having a value of 0 or 1;
- (8) j is an integer having a value from 1 to 3;
- (9) jj is an integer having a value from 0 to 2;
- (10) k is an integer having a value from 1 to 3; and
- (11) l is an integer having a value from 0 to 2.

A particularly important subclass of the metallocenes of this invention are represented by formula (III):



where Y is a HC_y group and Z is a non-HC_y group and where R'', Me, Q, P, k, and l are as described above (i=1, j=1 and jj=1 in formula (I)) and YR''Z is a ligand of the invention.

Non limiting examples of said metallocenes are:

isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadithiophene)

zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadithiophene)

zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-methylcyclopentadienyl)(7-

cyclopentadithiophene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(3-methylcyclopentadienyl)(7-

cyclopentadithiophene)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-ethylcyclopentadienyl)(7-

cyclopentadithiophene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(3-ethylcyclopentadienyl)(7-

cyclopentadithiophene)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-i-propylcyclopentadienyl)(7-

cyclopentadithiophene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(3-i-propylcyclopentadienyl)(7-

cyclopentadithiophene)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-n-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-

cyclopentadithiophene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(3-n-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadithiophene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadithiophene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadithiophene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-trimethylsilylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadithiophene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-trimethylsilylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadithiophene) zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadipyrrole)
zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadipyrrole)
zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-methylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadipyrrole)
zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-methylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadipyrrole)
zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-ethylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadipyrrole)
zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-ethylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadipyrrole)
zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-i-propylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadipyrrole)
zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-i-propylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadipyrrole)
zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadipyrrole) zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadipyrrole)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadiphosphole)
zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadiphosphole)
zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-methylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadiphosphole)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-methylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadiphosphole)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-ethylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadiphosphole)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-ethylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadiphosphole)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-i-propylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadiphosphole)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-i-propylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadiphosphole)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadiphosphole)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopentadiphosphole)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(2-methylthiapentalene)(2-methylindene)
zirconiumdichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(2-methylthiapentalene)(2-methylindene)
zirconiumdichloride;

isopropylidene(2-ethylthiapentalene)(2-ethylindene)
zirconiumdichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(2-ethylthiapentalene)(2-ethylindene)
zirconiumdichloride;

isopropylidene(2-i-propylthiapentalene)(2-i-propylindene)
zirconiumdichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(2-i-propylthiapentalene)(2-i-propylindene)
zirconiumdichloride;

isopropylidene(2-t-butylthiapentalene)(2-t-
butylindene)zirconiumdichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(2-t-butylthiapentalene)(2-t-
butylindene)zirconiumdichloride;

isopropylidene(2-trimethylsilylthiapentalene)(2-
trimethylsilylindene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(2-trimethylsilylthiapentalene)(2-
trimethylsilylindene)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(thiapentalene)zirconium
dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(thiapentalene) zirconium
dichloride;

isopropylidene(indenyl)(thiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(indenyl)(thiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(fluorenyl)(thiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(fluorenyl)(thiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-methylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-methylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
phenylmethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-methylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-ethylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-ethylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-n-butylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-n-butylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-i-propylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-i-propylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-phenylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-phenylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-naphthylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-naphthylthiapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-
trimethylsilylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-
trimethylsilylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

1,2-ethandiylbis(cyclopentadienyl)(2-methylthiapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-methylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(3-methylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-ethylcyclopentadienyl)(2-methylthiapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(3-ethylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-i-propylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(3-i-propylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-n-butylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(3-n-butylylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylthiapentalene) zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(2-methylthiapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopenta[1.2]thiophene[1.4]cyclopentadiene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopenta[1.2]thiophene[1.4]cyclopentadiene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylstanyl(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopenta[1.2]thiophene[1.4]cyclopentadiene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopenta[1.2]thiophene[1.4]cyclopentadiene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(7-cyclopenta[1.2]thiophene[1.4]cyclopentadiene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-methylazapentalenyl)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-methylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

phenylmethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-methylazapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-ethylazapentalene)zirconium
dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-ethylazapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-n-
butylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-n-buthylazapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-i-
propylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-i-propylazapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-phenylazapentalene)zirconium
dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-phenylazapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-
naphthylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-naphthylazapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(2-
trimethylsilylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(2-
trimethylsilylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

1,2-ethandiylbis(cyclopentadienyl)(2-methylazapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-methylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-methylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-ethylcyclopentadienyl)(2-methylazapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-ethylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-i-propylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-i-propylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-n-butylcyclopentadienyl)(2-methylazapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-n-butylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(2-methylazapentalene)
zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)(2-
methylazapentalene)zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)
(7-cyclopenta[1.2]pyrrole[1.4]cyclopentadiene)zirconium
dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)

(7-cyclopenta[1.2]pyrrole[1.4]cyclopentadiene) zirconium dichloride;
dimethylstanyl(3-t-butylcyclopentadienyl)
(7-cyclopenta[1.2]pyrrole[1.4]cyclopentadiene) zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(oxapentalene) zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(oxapentalene) zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(borapentalene) zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(borapentalene) zirconium dichloride;
isopropylidene(cyclopentadienyl)(phosphapentalene) zirconium dichloride;
dimethylsilanediyl(cyclopentadienyl)(phosphapentalene) zirconium dichloride.

Another important subclass of metallocenes according to the present invention are represented by the formula (IV):



wherein the Y groups, same or different from each other, are HCY and where R'', Me, Q, P, k, and l are as described above (i=1, j=2 and jj=0 in formula (I)) and YR''Y is a ligand of the invention.

Non limiting examples of these metallocenes are:

isopropylidene(2-methylthiapentalene) zirconiumdichloride;
dimethylsilandiylbis(2-methylthiapentalene)
zirconiumdichloride;

isopropylidene(2-ethylthiapentalene) zirconiumdichloride;
dimethylsilandiylbis(2-ethylthiapentalene) zirconiumdichloride;

isopropylidene(2-i-propylthiapentalene) zirconiumdichloride;
dimethylsilandiylbis(2-i-propylthiapentalene)
zirconiumdichloride;

isopropylidene(2-t-butylthiapentalene) zirconiumdichloride;
dimethylsilandiylbis(2-t-butylthiapentalene)
zirconiumdichloride;

isopropylidene(2-trimethylsilylthiapentalene)
zirconiumdichloride;

dimethylsilandiylbis(2-trimethylsilylthiapentalene)
zirconiumdichloride;

isopropylidene(2-i-phenylthiapentalene) zirconiumdichloride
dimethylsilandiylbis(2-i-phenylthiapentalene)
zirconiumdichloride;

isopropylidenebis(1-phenyl-2,5-dimethyl-1-azapentalene-4-
yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylbis(1-phenyl-2,5-dimethyl-1-azapentalene-4-
yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(1-phenyl-2,5-diethyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylbis(1-phenyl-2,5-diethyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-t-butyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylbis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-t-butyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-n-butyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylbis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-n-butyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-trimethylsilyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylbis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-trimethylsilyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

diphenylsandiylbis(1-phenyl-2,5-dimethyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

methylphenylsandiylbis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

ethylphenylsandiylbis(1-phenyl-2,5-dimethyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

1,2-ethandiylbis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(1-phenyl-2,5-dimethyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylibis(1-phenyl-2,5-dimethyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(1-phenyl-2,5-diethyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylibis(1-phenyl-2,5-diethyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-t-butyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylibis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-t-butyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-n-butyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylibis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-n-butyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-trimethylsilyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylibis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-trimethylsilyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

diphenylsilandiylibis(1-phenyl-2,5-dimethyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

methylphenylsilandiylibis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

ethylphenylsilyl bis(1-phenyl-2,5-dimethyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl) zirconium dichloride;

1,2-ethandiyl bis(1-phenyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl) zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(4-phenyl-2,6-dimethyl-1-thiopentalene-3-yl) zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilyl bis(4-phenyl-2,6-dimethyl-1-thiopentalene-3-yl) zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(4-phenyl-2,6-diethyl-1-thiopentalene-3-yl) zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilyl bis(4-phenyl-2,6-diethyl-1-thiopentalene-3-yl) zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-n-butyl-1-thiopentalene-3-yl) zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilyl bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-n-butyl-1-thiopentalene-3-yl) zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-i-propyl-1-thiopentalene-3-yl) zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilyl bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-i-propyl-1-thiopentalene-3-yl) zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-(3-pyridyl)-1-thiopentalene-3-yl) zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilyl bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-(3-pyridyl)-1-thiopentalene-3-yl) zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(4-phenyl-2-methyl-6-(3-pyridyl)-1-thiopentalene-3-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylbis(4-phenyl-2-methyl-6-(3-pyridyl)-1-thiopentalene-3-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(4-phenyl-2-methyl-6-(3-chinolyl)-1-thiopentalene-3-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylbis(4-phenyl-2-methyl-6-(3-chinolyl)-1-thiopentalene-3-yl) zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidenebis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-trimethylsilyl-1-thiopentalene-3-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiylbis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-trimethylsilyl-1-thiopentalene-3-yl)zirconium dichloride;

1,2-ethandiylbis(4-phenyl-2,6-dimethyl-1-thiopentalene-3-yl)zirconium dichloride;

1,3-propandiylbis(4-phenyl-2,6-dimethyl-1-thiopentalene-3-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-methylthiopentalene-4-yl)(1-phenyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiy(3-methylthiopentalene-4-yl)(1-phenyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-methylthiopentalene-4-yl)(1-methyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiy(3-methylthiopentalene-4-yl)(1-methyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-methylthiopentalene-4-yl)(1-t-butyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiyI(3-methylthiopentalene-4-yl)(1-t-butyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-azapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-methylthiopentalene-4-yl)(1-methyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiyI(3-methylthiopentalene-4-yl)(1-methyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-methylthiopentalene-4-yl)(1-t-butyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiyI(3-methylthiopentalene-4-yl)(1-t-butyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

isopropylidene(3-methylthiopentalene-4-yl)(1-phenyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

dimethylsilandiyI(3-methylthiopentalene-4-yl)(1-phenyl-2,5-di-methyl-1-phosphapentalene-4-yl)zirconium dichloride;

Another subclass of metallocenes of the invention is represented by formulae (III) or (IV), wherein i=0 and the remaining variable have the meanings reported above.

Non limiting examples of these metallocenes are:

bis(2-methylthiopentalene)zirconiumdichloride;

bis(2-methylazapentalene)zirconiumdichloride;

bis(2-methylphosphapentalene)zirconiumdichloride;

bis(2-ethylthiapentalene)zirconiumdichloride;
bis(2-ethylazapentalene)zirconiumdichloride;
bis(2-ethylphosphapentalene)zirconiumdichloride;
bis(2-i-propylthiapentalene)zirconiumdichloride;
bis(2-i-propylazapentalene)zirconiumdichloride;
bis(2-i-propylphosphapentalene)zirconiumdichloride;
bis(2-t-butylthiapentalene)zirconiumdichloride;
bis(2-t-butylazapentalene)zirconiumdichloride;
bis(2-t-butylphosphapentalene)zirconiumdichloride.

As used in the description of the metallocenes of formulae (I), (III) and (IV), the term "associated" to a central atom, in the context of the group containing at least one heteroatom, "associated to a central 6 π electron radical, means that said heteroatom is not an endocyclic member of the central six electron radical directly coordinating Me. For example, the heteroatom could be part of a ring condensed to the central six electron radical, such as in thiapentalene, azapentalene, dithiatracyclounnonatetraene, diazatracyclounnonatetraene or in thiaazatracyclounnonatetraene or the heteroatom can be part of a radical linked to the central six electron radical, such as a heterocyclic radical substituent bonded to the central radical (e.g. 3-pyridylCp group).

Yet, another important subclass of metallocenes of this invention are those capable of producing polymers having

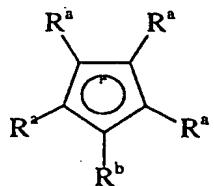
of the number and type of α -substituents. Alternatively, in isoselective metallocenes Y or Z, but not both, is bilaterally or pseudo-bilaterally symmetric and the non-bilaterally symmetric group has only one bulky β substituent. Analogous isoselective metallocenes can be designed from the metallocenes of formula (IV), but where the substituents are on one or both of the Y ligands.

Metallocenes of formula (III) capable of yielding polymers with varying degrees of selectivity to the syndiotactic joining of monomer units ("syndioselective"), including syndiospecific polymers ("syndiospecific metallocenes"), must show either Cs or pseudo-Cs symmetry. In syndioselective catalysts both Y and Z are bilaterally or pseudo-bilaterally symmetric and either Y or Z, but not both, have bulky β substituents irrespective of the number and type of α -substituents. Analogous syndioselective metallocenes can be designed from the metallocenes of formula (IV), but all substitution will occur on the two Y groups.

In the case of metallocenes of formulae (III) and (IV) having non Cp type groups (i. e. ligands not having six π electrons delocalized over five atoms either in an all cis configuration or in a five membered ring, such as NR^- , PR^- , O^- or S^-), the substituents on the non-Cp type group and the substituents on the HCy group must operate to sterically constrain the metallocenes so that the resulting polymer has some degree of

tacticity. In the case of oxide or sulfide containing metallocenes where the oxygen or sulfur atom is bridged through the divalent bridge R" to the HCY ligand, the HCY ligand will impose the control over polymer chain propagation by the existence of one or more substituents.

In a particularly preferred class of metallocenes of the present invention, the Y ligand is a heterocyclic ring fused to the central six π electron central radical. Said class is envisaged by formulae (I), (III) and (IV), wherein Y is a substituted cyclopentadienyl group represented by the following structure:



wherein the groups R^a, identical or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, C₃-C₂₀-cycloalkyl, C₆-C₂₀-aryl, C₇-C₂₀-alkylaryl and C₇-C₂₀-arylalkyl radicals, and wherein at least two adjacent R^a groups can form a condensed heterocyclic C₅-C₇ ring containing at least one non-carbon atom selected from B, N, O, Al, Si, P, S, Ga, Ge, As, Se, In, Sn, Sb and Te;

R^b is hydrogen, halogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, C₁-C₂₀-alkoxyl, C₆-C₂₀-aryl, C₇-C₂₀-alkylaryl, C₇-C₂₀-arylalkyl C₁-C₂₀ acyloxyl group, optionally

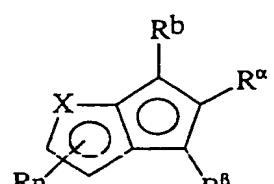
varying degrees of tacticity. Such metallocenes are generally represented by bridged metallocenes of formulae (III) and/or (IV) (i.e., containing bridged ligands) having specific substitution patterns that are capable of imparting tacticoselectivity to the metallocenes during polymerization, resulting in the formation of tacticoselective polymers.

Generally, tacticoselective catalysts, and even tacticospecific catalysts, are formed when in the metallocenes of formulae (III) and (IV), Y and /or Z groups bear the same or different substituents, in some or all of the positions α and β to the atoms bearing the bridging group R'', such that at least one β substituent is a bulky substituent (i.e. sterically bulkier than hydrogen and preferably sterically bulkier than a methyl group or an aromatic carbon atom, which has essentially the same relative steric size as a methyl group). Preferably, said metallocenes possess a specific overall symmetry. Additional information on the effect of bulky β substituent can be found in United States Patent No. 5,459,117.

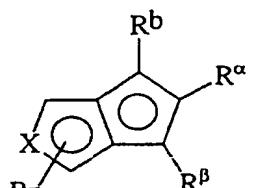
Metallocenes of formulae (III), capable of yielding polymers with varying degrees of selectivity to the isotactic joining of monomer units ("isoselective metallocenes"), including nearly isospecific polymers ("isospecific metallocenes"), must show either C2 or pseudo-C2 symmetry. In isoselective metallocenes neither Y nor Z is bilaterally or pseudo-bilaterally symmetric, and both Y and Z have a single bulky β substituent irrespective

containing a silicon atom, or R^b is a bridging divalent group R" as defined above.

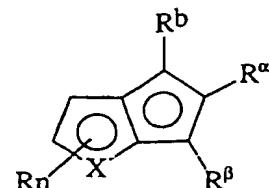
The preferred Y groups are represented by the following formulae:



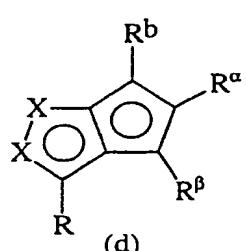
(a)



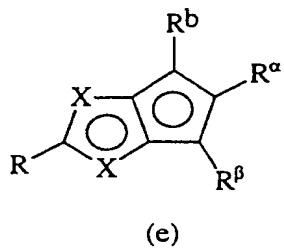
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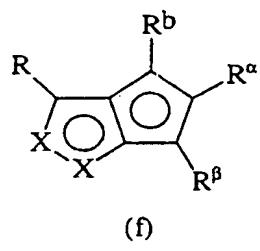
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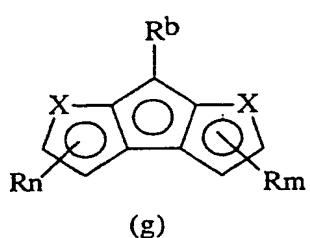
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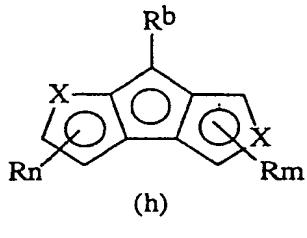
(e)



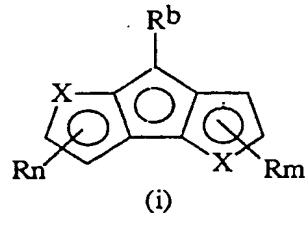
(f)



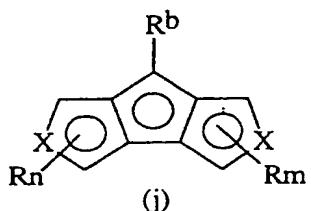
(g)



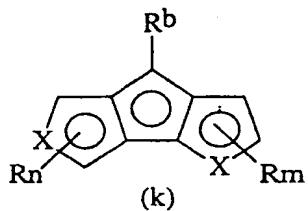
(h)



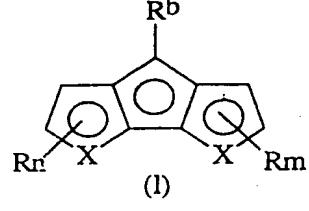
(i)



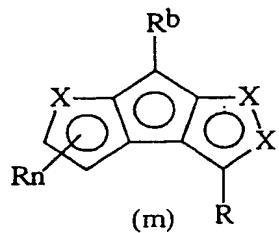
(j)



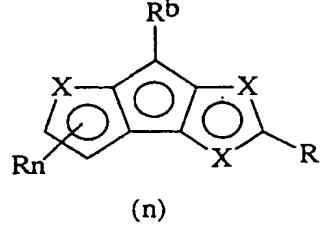
(k)



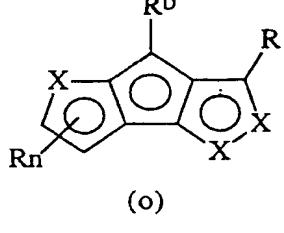
(l)



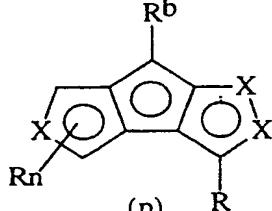
(m)



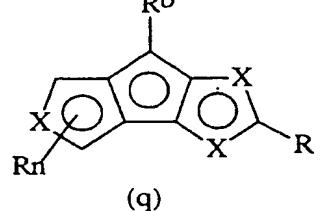
(n)



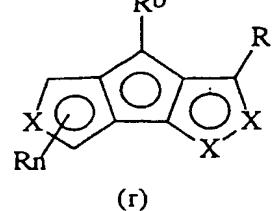
(o)



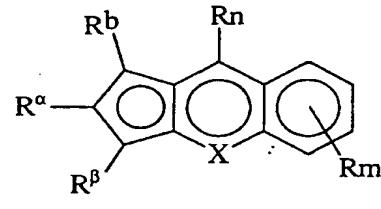
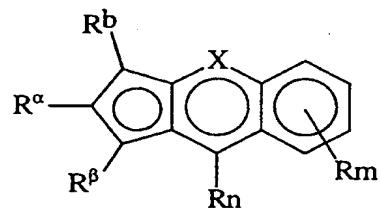
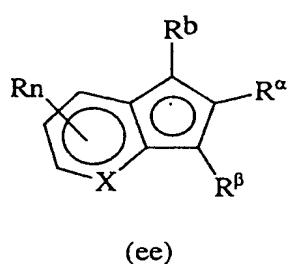
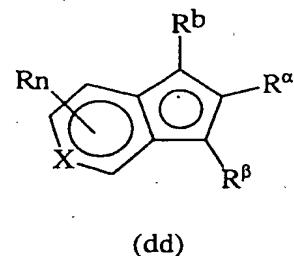
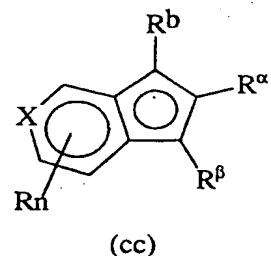
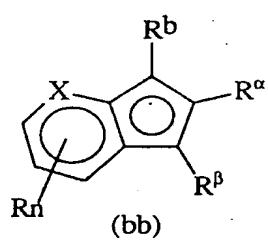
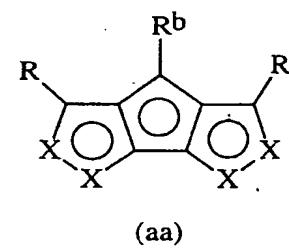
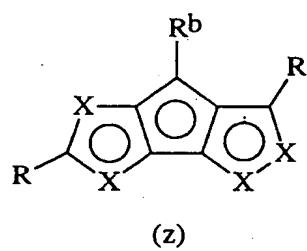
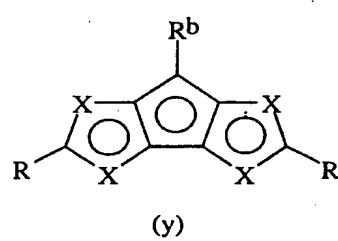
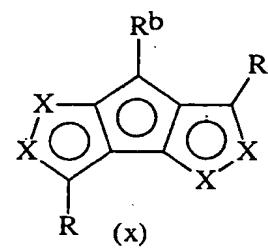
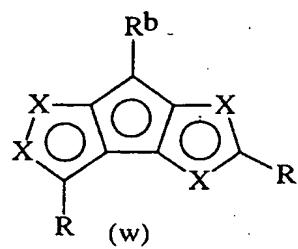
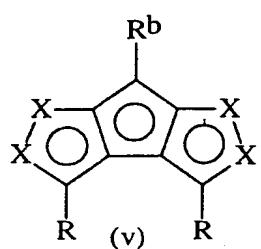
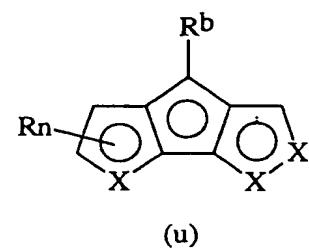
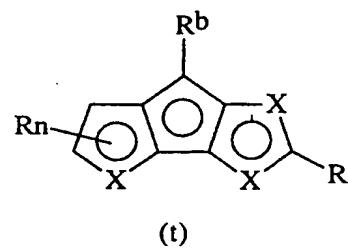
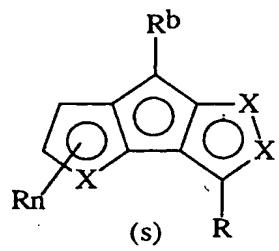
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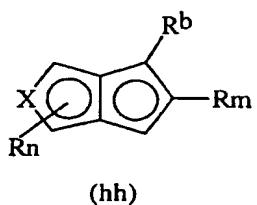


(q)



(r)





wherein:

- (i) the X atoms, the same or different from each other, can be N, P, NR^g, PR^g, O or S; when a fused ring has two heteroatoms, then one X can be O or S and the other X can be N, P, NR^g or PR^g, or one can be N or P and the other can be NR^g or PR^g, so that the molecular species represents a chemically viable group;
- (ii) wherein R^g is a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon radical, optionally substituted with one or more halogen, hydroxy, alkoxy group, a C₃-C₁₂ cyclohydrocarbon radical, a C₃-C₁₂ cyclohydrohalocarbon radical, optionally substituted with one or more halogen, C₆-C₂₀ aryl radical, C₇-C₂₀ alkylaryl radical, C₇-C₂₀ arylalkyl radical, a silicon hydrocarbon radical, a germanium hydrocarbon radical, a phosphorous hydrocarbon radical, a nitrogen hydrocarbon radical, a boron hydrocarbon radical, an aluminum hydrocarbon radical or a halogen atom;
- (iii) the R groups, same or different from each other, can be hydrogen, a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon radical, optionally substituted with one or more halogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, a C₃-C₁₂ cyclohydrohalocarbon radical, optionally

substituted with one or more halogen, an C₆-C₂₀ aryl radical, an C₇-C₂₀ alkylaryl radical, an C₇-C₂₀ arylalkyl radical, a silicon hydrocarbon radical, a germanium hydrocarbon radical, a phosphorous hydrocarbon radical, a nitrogen hydrocarbon radical, a boron hydrocarbon radical, an aluminum hydrocarbon radical or a halogen atom, two adjacent R groups can form together a saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic fused ring;

(iii) n and m are integers which have values from 0 to the maximum number of substituents that the ring can accommodate (e.g. for formulae (a)-(b), n can be 0, 1 or 2); and

(iv) R^a and R^b representing α and β substituents respectively, same or different from each other, can be hydrogen, a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon radical, optionally substituted with one or more halogen, hydroxy or alkoxy, a C₃-C₁₂ cyclohydrocarbon radical, optionally substituted with one or more halogens, an C₆-C₂₀ aryl radical, an C₇-C₂₀ alkylaryl radical, an C₇-C₂₀ arylalkyl radical, a silicon hydrocarbon radical, a germanium hydrocarbon radical, a phosphorous hydrocarbon radical, a nitrogen hydrocarbon radical, a boron hydrocarbon radical, an aluminum hydrocarbon radical or a halogen atom; two adjacent R^a and R^b groups can form together a saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic fused ring;

(v) R^a and R^b have the meanings reported above.

In its broadest form, the process of the present invention involves polymerizing an addition polymerizable monomer, such

as an α -olefin, either alone or together with other addition polymerizable monomers, in the presence of the catalytic system of the invention, including at least one metallocene of formula (I) and a co-catalyst, such as an alumoxane.

The present invention further provides a process for producing tacticoselective and even tacticospecific polymers comprising contacting at least one polymerizable monomer with a catalytic system of the invention including at least one metallocene of formulae (III) and/or (IV), where the ligands of said metallocenes bear tacticity controlling α and β substituents, as described herein.

Many metallocenes of formulae (I), (III) and (IV) that are capable of producing tacticoselective and/or tacticospecific polymers when contacted with monomers capable of forming polymers with tacticity, have certain specific substitution requirements, often imparting then actual or pseudo symmetry. The symmetry terms generally used to describe metallocenes that generate tacticoselective polymers are described below.

The term bilateral symmetry means that the ligand, such as the HCy group, Op group or Cp group is symmetric with respect to a bisecting mirror plane perpendicular to the plane containing the legend, and bisecting the ligand into two parts with the 2 and 5 and the 3 and 4 positions being in a mirror image relationship respectively (e.g. 3,4-dimethyl-Cp or 2,5-dimethyl-Cp). The term pseudobilateral symmetry means that the

3,4 and 2,5 substituents are of similar but not identical steric bulk. (e.g. methyl and ethyl, phenyl and pyridyl, naphthyl and quinoline, methyl and chloro, hydrogen and fluoro, etc).

The term C_s or pseudo- C_s symmetry means that the entire metallocene is symmetric with respect to a bisecting mirror plane passing through the bridging group and the atoms bonded to the bridging group, i.e. the substituents on each coordinating group of a bridged legend, which are reflectively coupled, are identical or similar. C_s or pseudo- C_s symmetry also means that both coordinating groups are bilaterally or pseudo bilaterally symmetric. Syndioselective metallocenes show C_s or pseudo- C_s symmetry and preferably include two coordinating groups linked together by a divalent bridge ($i=1$ and $j+j'=2$ in formula (I)) and the β substituents on one coordinating group are sterically larger than the β substituents on the other coordinating group. For example, (dithia-tricyclo[3.3.1.0.0]unnonatetraenyl)-R"--(Cp) ligands, (dithiatricyclo[3.3.1.0.0]unnonatetraenyl)-R"--(Op) ligands, (dithia-tricyclo[3.3.1.0.0]unnonatetracnyl)R"--(3,4-di-t-butyl Cp) ligand; or (dithia-tricyclo[3.3.1.0.0]unnonatetraenyl)R"- (2,5-dimethyl-Cp) ligands have C_s symmetry or pseudo C_s symmetry depending on the location of the two sulfur atoms.

(Dithia-tricyclo[3.3.1.0.0]unnonatetraenyl)-R"--(2-chloro-5-methyl-Cp), ligands (dithia-tricyclo[3.3.1.0.0]

unnonatetraenyl)-R"- (3-tbutyl-4-isopropyl-Cp) ligands or related ligands have pseudo-C_s symmetry. Forming appropriate metallocenes from these ligands will produce catalytic systems capable of yielding polymers with varying degrees of syndiotacticity including polymers with very high degrees of syndiospecificity.

The term C₂ or pseudo-C₂ symmetry means that the ligand has an axis of C₂ symmetry passing through the bridging group and, if the ligand system were confined to a plane, the axis would be perpendicular to the plane containing the ligand. Isoselective metallocenes have generally C₂ or pseudo-C₂ symmetry and preferably include two coordinating groups linked together by a divalent group (i=1 and j+jj=2 in formula (I)), where at least one β substituent on one coordinating group is bulkier than the β substituent in the same location on the other coordinating group and where only the racemic metallocenes are active isoselective species. For example, *rac*-bis(N-phenyl-5-methyl-1-azapentalenyl)R" ligands, *rac*-bis(5-methyl-1-thiapentalenyl)R" ligands and bis(cyclopenta[b]quinoline) R" ligands have C₂ symmetry.

Rac- (N-phenyl-5-methyl-1-azapentalenyl)-R"- (3-phenyl-indenyl) ligands and *rac*(4-phenyl-1-thiapentalenyl)-R"- (3-phenyl-indenyl) have pseudo-C₂ symmetry. To produce isoselective metallocenes, the ligands are contacted with an appropriate metallic species which yields a mixture of *meso* isomers (which

yield atactic polymer) and *rac* isomers (which yield isoselective polymers). The *meso* and *rac* isomers can be separated by crystallization or other separation techniques, well known in the art. The synthesis of cyclopenta[b]quinolines is described in Eisch, J.J.; Gadek, F.J., *J.Org.Chem.*, 1971, 36, 2065-2071.

Moreover, isoselective metallocenes can also be prepared that do not have inactive *meso* forms. Such isoselective metallocenes generally comprise one bilaterally symmetric coordinating group and one asymmetric coordinating group (not bilaterally or pseudo-bilaterally symmetric).

In accordance with this invention, one can also produce olefin copolymers particularly copolymers of ethylene and/or propylene, and other olefins by a suitable choice of metallocenes of formula (I). The choice of metallocenes of the present invention can be used to control comonomer content, as well as other properties of the polymer, such as tacticity for vinyl monomers other than ethylene or ethylene like monomers.

As already reported above, the metallocenes of the present invention comprise one or more rings containing at least one heteroatom, associated with the central six π electron radical which directly coordinates the transition metal. Such associated rings include the following classes of radicals:

- (i) the heteroatom(s) is contained in a cyclic substituent

linked to one of the atoms of the central radical;

(ii) the heteroatom(s) is contained in a ring fused to the central radical, but is not an endocyclic member of the central radical; or

(iii) the heteroatoms are contained in both a cyclic substituent linked to the central radical and in a ring fused to the central radical. The rings fused to the central radical can be aromatic, non-aromatic, unsaturated and/or unsaturated ring or ring systems. Additionally, the central radical can include the phosphino-boratabenzene radicals (that are prepared according to the procedure described in Quan, R.W. et al., *J.Am.Chem.Soc.*, 1994, 116, 4489)

Examples of heterocyclic ring systems that can be associated with the central radical include, without limitation, any B, N, O, Al, Si, P, S, Ga, Ge, As, Se, In, Sn, Sb or Te containing group, any group containing two or more of these atoms and preferably any N, O, P, or S containing group or any group containing two or more of these preferred atoms. Not limitative examples include pyrrole, isopyrroles, pyrazole, isoimidazole, 1,2,3-triazole, 1,2,4-triazole, imidazole, indolizine, thiophene, 1,3-dithiole, 1,2,3-oxathiole, 1,2-dithiole, thiazole, isothiazole, 1,2,3-oxadiazole, 1,2,4-oxadiazole, 1,3,4-oxadiazole, 1,2,3,4-oxatriazole, 1,2,3,5-oxatriazole, thionaphthene, isothionaphthene, isoindazole, benzoxazole, anthranil, benzothiophene, naphthothiophene, furane, isobenzofuran, benzofuran, indole, indazole, purine, carbazole,

carboline, isothiazole, isoxazole, oxazole, furazan, thienofuran, pyrazinocarbazole, furopyran, pyrazolo-oxazole, selenazolo-benzothiazole, imidazothiazole, furocinnoline, pyridocarbazole, oxathiopyrole, imidazotriazine, pyridoimidazo-quinoxaline, sila-2,4-cyclopentadiene, thiapentalenes, azapentalenes and dithiatricyclounnonatetraenes.

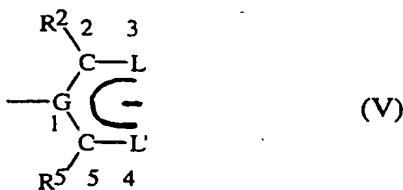
Additional HCY radicals include, without limitation, heterocyclic fused ring systems where the heteroatom is not a part of the central Cp rings such as compounds represented by formulae (a) and (s) shown above. Not limitative examples include mono heteroatom containing fluorenes where the heteroatom is in the 1-8 positions (using IUPAC numbering); diheteroatom fluorenes again where the heteroatoms are in the 1-8 positions, mono heteroatom indene where the heteroatom is in the 4-7 positions (IUPAC numbering); diheteroatom indenes again where the heteroatom is in the 4-7 positions. Heterocyclic compounds including thia and aza pentalene type systems or heterocyclic compounds including thia, dithia, aza, diaza and thiaaza systems, having three fused five member rings, where the central five membered ring is an all-carbon cyclopentadienyl ring.

Of course, it should be apparent that certain of these ring systems will not support substituents at the heteroatom. Thus, oxygen and sulfur containing rings will not have substituents attached to the oxygen or sulfur atoms. Additionally, in the

case of N, P, and As, where these atoms are part of a double bond, they will not have substituents attached thereto.

The term open-pentadienyl (abbreviated as Op) is intended to refer to all six π electron structures that are centered on five connected atoms in an all cis configuration, but where the five atoms bearing the six π electrons are not part of a five membered ring, i. e., the five atoms do not form a cyclopentadienyl ring system. Of course, all five atoms should be sp^2 hybridized or in some other hybridization that can support electron delocalization over the five centers. One possible precursor to the Op ligands of this invention is a system where four of the atoms are part of two non-conjugated double bonds connected to and separated by a central atom, where the double bonds contribute two electrons each to the ligand system and the central atom supplies two electrons to the system either directly (as the ion pair of a N or P atom) or through the loss of a removable group, to result in the formation of an anionic center as for a C or Si atom. Of course, other central species could be used as well, including Ge and As.

The open-pentadienyl radical suitable for use in the present invention include Op ligands of formula (V):



wherein:

G is a carbon atom, a nitrogen atom, a silicon atom or a phosphorus atom;

L is a CR³R^{3'} radical, a SiR³R^{3'} radical, a NR³⁻ radical, a PR³⁻ radical, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom and L' is a CR⁴R^{4'} radical, a Si R⁴R^{4'} radical, a NR⁴⁻ radical, a PR⁴⁻ radical, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R², R³, R^{3'}, R^{3''}, R⁴, R^{4'}, R^{4''} and R⁵, the same or different from each other, can be a hydrogen, a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon radical, a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ halocarbon radical, a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ hydrohalocarbon radical, a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy radical, a C₃-C₁₂ cyclohydrocarbon radical, a C₃-C₁₂ cyclohydrohalocarbon radical, a C₆-C₂₀ aryl radical, a C₇-C₂₀ alkylaryl radical, a C₇-C₂₀ arylalkyl radical, a silicon hydrocarbon radical, a germanium hydrocarbon radical, a phosphorous hydrocarbon radical, a nitrogen hydrocarbon radical, a boron hydrocarbon radical, an aluminum hydrocarbon radical or a halogen atom; R² and R³, R^{3'} or R^{3''} and/or R⁵ and R⁴, R^{4'} or R^{4''} can form a 4 to 6 membered ring or a 6 to 20 fused ring systems; R³, R^{3'}, or R^{3''} and R⁴, R^{4'}, or R^{4''} can be joined together so that the five numbered atomic centers

forming the five centered delocalized six electron ligand are contained in a 7 to 20 membered ring system.

The numbers associated with the five atoms in formula (V) are there to indicate how substituent positions will be addressed in the remainder of the specification. Thus, for those metallocenes having a divalent bridge, said bridge will be bonded to the central atom which is indicated as position 1, in a fashion analogous to the numbering in cyclopentadiene. Additionally, the 2 and 5 positions will sometimes be jointly referred to as the α positions or proximal positions (proximal to the 1 position), while the 3 and 4 positions will sometimes be jointly referred to as the β or distal positions.

The present invention also provides a process for producing polymers and copolymers having varying and controllable properties including high molecular weights at high temperatures, tacticoselectivity (including tacticospecificity), stereoregularity, narrow or broad molecular weight distribution, etc. The process comprises polymerizing one or more monomers in the presence of one or more metallocenes of the invention.

The Applicant has found that metallocenes of the present invention can also be prepared which yield stereoregular and stereospecific polymer products, such as linear high molecular weight polyethylene, isotactic polyolefins, syndiotactic polyolefins and hemi-isotactic polyolefins. These uniquely

designed metallocenes have as a key feature a bridged specifically substituted legend, containing at least one HCY coordinating group.

For metallocenes that produce stereoselective and/or tacticoselective polyolefins, the ligand that forms the metallocene of the present invention can be substituted in such a way that the same metallocene is stereorigid (bridged), stereolocked and stereodirected so that: (1) the substituents on the legend lock and/or direct the polymer chain-end orientation and/or monomer approach such that each successive monomer addition is stereospecific and the degree of stereoselectivity can be controlled; and (2) the bridging group renders the ligand system rigid so that its rotation or isomerization is prevented or restricted. These metallocenes are characterized by having β or distal substituents on the ligands controlling the orientation of monomer addition; moreover, metallocene configuration determines tacticoselectivity.

The metallocenes of the present invention can be either non-stereorigid/non-stereolocked, stereorigid/non-stereolocked, non-stereorigid/stereolocked, stereorigid/stereolocked or mixtures thereof. Stereorigidity is imparted to the metallocenes of this invention by a chemical bridge connecting two coordinating groups to form metallocenes of formulae (III) and (IV), i.e. where $i=1$ and $j=1$ in the general formula (I). The bridging group prevents or greatly restricts the two

coordinating groups from undergoing structural isomerizations or rotation.

The Applicant has also found that, by controlling the metallocenes relative steric size, catalysts can be formed that insert statistically controllable defects into the resulting polymers. The Applicant has also found that catalysts of the present invention can be designed to produce hemi-isotactic polymers. The Applicant has also found that intimate mixtures of polymers with different properties can be prepared by polymerizing monomers in the presence of metallocenes of the present invention or polymerizing monomers in the presence of catalysts of this invention in combination with prior art catalysts.

In the state of the art, the term metallocene denotes an organometallic coordination compound in which two cyclopentadienyl containing ligands are coordinated to or "sandwiched" about a central metal atom and where all five centers of the Cp ring are involved in metal coordination. The metal atom may be a transition metal or transition metal halide, alkyhalide or alkoxide. Such structures are sometimes referred to as "molecular sandwiches" since the cyclopentadienyl ligands are oriented above and below a plane containing the central coordinated metal atom nearly parallel to the planes containing the Cp ring. Similarly, the term "cationic metallocene" means a metallocene in which the central coordinated metallic species carries a positive charge, i.e.,

the metallocene complex is a cation associated with a stable non-coordinating or pseudo non-coordinating anion.

However, in addition to the traditional meaning of the term metallocene, the present invention expands this term to encompass metallocenes where at least one of the groups coordinating the central metal atom or ion is a ring system containing at least one heteroatom, associated with the central radical (the central radical directly coordinates the transition metal). The second coordinating group can be a ring system having the meanings of the first coordinating group or a heterocyclic containing group where the heteroatom is in the central ring, an O_p containing ligand or a C_p containing ligand, a nitrogen ligand, a phosphorus ligand, an oxygen ligand or a sulfur ligand.

One skilled in the art should also recognize that the permissible values for i , j , k and l will depend on the actual ligand and on the coordinating metal; these values are understood to conform to known organometallic structural and electronic requirements.

Suitable Z radicals for use in the present invention include, without limitation, radicals represented as follows:

- (1) heterocyclic containing ligands where the heteroatom is contained in the central radical;
- (2) O_p containing ligands;

(3) cyclopentadienyl or substituted cyclopentadienyl radicals of formula (C_5R' _{iii}), wherein the groups R', same or different from each other have the meanings of R, and two adjacent R' groups can be joined together to form a C₄-C₆ ring; iii is an integer having a value from 0 to 5;

(4) nitrogen and phosphorus containing radicals, represented by the formula (JR'_{jjj}) where J is nitrogen or phosphorus atom, the R'₆ groups, same or different from each other, have the meanings described above for radicals R¹ - R⁵; jjj is an integer having a value from 1 to 3; or

(5) an oxygen or sulfur containing radical represented by the formula (UR'_{kkk}), where U is oxygen or sulfur atom and where R'₇ is a radical as described above for radicals R¹-R⁵; and kkk is an integer having a value of 0 or 2.

Suitable structural bridging groups R" able to impart stereorigidity to the metallocenes of this invention, include, without limitation, a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkenyl radical, a C₃-C₂₀ dialkyl methyl radical, a C₃-C₁₂ cyclohydrocarbon radical, an C₆-C₂₀ aryl radical, a diarylmethylene radical, a diaryl allyl radical, a silicon hydrocarbon radical, dihydrocarbon silenyl radical, a germanium hydrocarbyl radical, a phosphorous hydrocarbon radical, a nitrogen hydrocarbon radical, a boron hydrocarbon radical and an aluminum hydrocarbon radical.

Other suitable bridging groups R" include ionic units, such as B(C₆F₅)₂ and Al(C₆F₅)₂, and R₂C, R₂Si, R₄Et, R₆Pr, where R can be any hydrocarbon, cyclic hydrocarbon, cyclic or linear hydrocarbon bearing another organometallic catalyst or carboranes. Indeed, the bridges can be C₂ bridges (and C₃ etc.) which form the backbone of polymeric supports (e.g. the atactic, syndiotactic and isotactic polymers from vinyl-indene and 9-vinyl-fluorene etc.) as well as functionalized polystyrene precursors and all other polymers with terminal or branched boron or Al functional groups which are bonded to the catalysts, e.g., in zwitterionic form. R₂C and R₂Si bridging groups are preferred with isopropylidene and dimethylsilylenyl bridging groups being particularly preferred.

Suitable radicals corresponding to R, R', R¹ - R⁵, R^a and R^b include, without limitation, hydrogen atoms, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon radicals, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ halocarbyl radicals, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ hydrohalocarbon radicals, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy radicals, C₃-C₁₂ cyclohydrocarbon radicals, a C₃-C₁₂ cyclohydrohalocarbon radicals, aryl radicals, allylaryl radicals, arylalkyl radicals, silicon hydrocarbon radicals, germanium hydrocarbon radicals, phosphorus hydrocarbon radicals, nitrogen hydrocarbon radicals, boron hydrocarbon radicals, aluminum hydrocarbon radicals and halogen atoms. Preferable, said radicals are linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl radicals, trialkylsilyl radicals and aryl radicals, where linear or branched C₁-C₁₀ radicals and

aryl radicals are particularly preferred; methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, trialkylmethyl radicals, trialkylsilyl radicals, and phenyl radicals are especially preferred.

Additionally, suitable radicals corresponding to R, R', R¹-R⁵, R^a and R^b include, without limitation, zwitterionic radicals such as Cp-B(C₆F₅)₃⁻, Cp-Al(C₆F₅)₃⁻, Cp-Al(CF₃)₃⁻, Cp-X-Al(C₆F₅)₃⁻ and Cp-X-B(C₆F₅)₃⁻, where X can represent an alkenyl group or an alkoxy group.

The metallocenes of this invention containing zwitterionic radicals on either one of the coordinating group the ligand of the present invention and having Me= metal of group 4 do not need an independent and sometimes stereochemically interfering counterion (*i.e.*, l=0). These zwitterionic radicals may also be suitable for mono and di cations of metallocenes of formula (I) where Me is a group 5 metal in the plus five oxidation state (Me(V)). They could even conceivably be used to create ion-pair metallocenes with the normally neutral group 3 metals in the plus three oxidation state (Me(III)). In this case, one could obtain heterogeneous insoluble ion-pair systems for improved polymer particle size and morphology control.

Preferred metals corresponding to Me include, without limitation, Group 3, 4, or 5 elements or lanthanide elements from the Periodic Table of Elements. More preferably, Me is a Group 4 or 5 metal, titanium, zirconium and hafnium being the

most preferred. Preferred lanthanide elements are Lu, La, Nd, Sm and Gd.

Suitable hydrocarbon radicals or halogens corresponding to Q include, without limitation, a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl radical, an aryl radical, an alkylaryl radical, an arylalkyl radical, F, Cl, Br and I. Q is preferably methyl or halogen, and more preferably chlorine atom.

Exemplary hydrocarbon radicals are methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, amyl, isoamyl, hexyl, isobutyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, cetyl, 2-ethylhexyl and phenyl. Exemplary alkylene radicals are methylene, ethylene, propylene and isopropylidene. Exemplary halogen atoms include fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine, chlorine being preferred. Examples of the alkylidene radicals are methyldene, ethyldene and propyldene. Exemplary nitrogen containing radicals include amines such as alkyl amines, aryl amines, arylalkyl amines and alkylaryl amines.

Suitable non-coordinating anions corresponding to P in the general formula include, without limitation, [BF₄]⁻, B(PhF₅)⁻, [W(PhF₅)₆]⁻, [Mo(PhF₅)₆]⁻ (wherein PhF₅ is pentafluorophenyl), [ClO₄]⁻, [S_nO₆]⁻, [PF₆]⁻, [SbR₆]⁻ and [AIR₄]⁻; wherein each R is independently Cl, a C₁-C₅ alkyl group (preferably a methyl group), an aryl group (e.g. a phenyl or substituted phenyl group) or a fluorinated aryl and alkyl group.

Tactioselective metallocenes (*i.e.* metallocenes that produce tactioselective polymers) of the present invention are generally characterized by having symmetry or pseudo symmetry associated with the ligand or the metallocene. As stated previously, metallocenes including two ligands and having C₂ or pseudo-C₂ symmetry or having one bilaterally symmetric ligand and one asymmetric ligand and at least one bulky β-substituent or pseudo β-substituent (in the case of metallocenes having non-Cp groups such as constrained geometry amine or phosphine anionic ligands) produce polymers with varying degrees of isotacticity. In contrary, metallocenes including two ligands and having C_s or pseudo-C_s symmetry produce polymers with varying degrees of syndiotacticity. Preferably, the ligands are bridged, but certain non-bridged two metallocenes can give polymers with varying tacticoselectivity or polymers with varying degrees of regularity in the mode of monomer addition, e.g., head- to-tail or tail-to-head addition regularity.

Of the metallocenes of this invention, titanocenes, zirconocenes and hafniocenes are most preferred. The present invention also encompasses La, Lu, Sm, Nd and Gd metallocenes.

A few exemplary metallocenes of the present invention are metallocenes where:

- (1) Y, in the YR''Z ligand, corresponds to formulae (a)-(s) where R' is a bulky substituent or where the R substituent in

combination with the ring atom β to the carbon attached to R" forms a bulky β substituent; or

(2) the two Y groups in the YR"Y ligand, same or different from each other, corresponds to formulae (a)-(s), where R $^{\beta}$ is a bulky substituent or where the R substituent in combination with the ring atom β to the carbon attached to R" forms a bulky β substituent.

A few exemplary metallocenes of the present invention are metallocenes where:

(1) Y, in the YR"Z ligand, corresponds to formulae (a)-(s) and Z is a Cp radical; Y and Z are bilaterally symmetric and only one of either Y or Z has two bulky β substituents; or

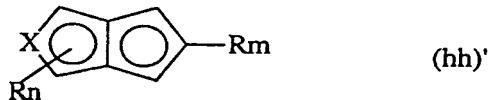
(2) the two Y groups, in the YR"Y ligand, same or different from each other are bilaterally symmetric and correspond to formulae (a)-(s), where only one of the Y group has two bulky β substituents.

Yet another important subclass metallocenes of this invention are those capable of producing partially crystalline thermoplastic-elastomeric propylene polymers, directly obtainable from the polymerization reaction of propylene without the need of separation steps or of sequential polymerization, which are endowed with good mechanical properties and can be suitably used as elastomeric materials

and as compatibilizers for blends of amorphous and crystalline polyolefins.

Said metallocenes are unbridged metallocenes corresponding to formula (I) wherein $i=0$, $j=1$, $jj=1$ (i.e. containing two unbridged ligands) having specific substitution patterns, thus obtaining polypropylenes having isotactic and atactic blocks within a single polymer chain, or blends of isotactic and atactic polymer chains, exhibiting elastomeric properties.

In formula (I), Y and Z, equal or different from each other, are preferably unbridged ligands corresponding to formula (hh)':



wherein X, R, n and m have the meanings reported above.

Said metallocenes are not rigid and upon isomerisation the catalyst symmetry alternates between a chiral and an achiral geometry; the geometry alternation in the metallocenes of the invention can be controlled by selecting suitable bulky unbridged ligands Y and Z, as well as suitable polymerization conditions:

Non limiting examples of the above described metallocenes are:

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-diethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-dipropyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-i-propyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-n-butyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-t-butyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-trimethylsilyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(2-pyridyl)-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3-pyridyl)-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(8-chinolyl)-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3-chinolyl)-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(5-pyrimidyl)-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(2-furanyl)-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(2-pyrolyl)-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3,5-diethylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3,5-dimethylsilylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-methyl-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(trifluoromethyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-naphthyl-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(1-indenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-thiopentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-diethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-dipropyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-i-propyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-n-butyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-t-butyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-trimethylsilyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(2-pyridyl)-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3-pyridyl)-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(8-chinolyl)-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3-chinolyl)-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(5-pyrimidyl)-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(2-furanyl)-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(2-pyrolyl)-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3,5-diethylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3,5-dimethylsilylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-methyl-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(trifluoromethyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-naphthyl-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(1-indenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-azapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-diethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-dipropyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-i-propyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-n-butyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-t-butyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-di-trimethylsilylphosphapentalene) zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(2-pyridyl)-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3-pyridyl)-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(8-chinolyl)-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3-chinolyl)-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(5-pyrimidyl)-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(2-furanyl)-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(2-pyrolyl)-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3,5-diethylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(3,5-dimethylsilylphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-methyl-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-phenyl-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-(trifluoromethyphenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride;

bis(4-naphthyl-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride; and

bis(4-(1-indenyl)-2,6-dimethyl-phosphapentalene)zirconium dichloride.

Indeed, the metallocenes can be tailored using a number of strategies to control properties, such as the relative stereoselectivity and/or stereospecificities, the molecular weight, and other significant polymer properties. Metallocenes

having a single carbon bridged ligands have been more stereospecific than the silicon bridged analogs for syndiotactic specific catalysts; the carbon bridged metallocenes are generally less stereospecific than the silicon bridged analogs for isospecific catalysts. The larger the steric requirements are for the β -substituents, the more stereospecific the metallocene is. The difference in the steric requirements for the conformational locks and the stereo-controlling β -substituent can be used to optimize the orientation of the chain end. And substituents at the α -position should result in increased polymer molecular weight.

The present invention is directed to both neutral metallocenes and cationic metallocenes as evidenced by the subscript l associated with the anion P having permissible values of 0 to 2, i.e., when l=0, the metallocenes are neutral and when l=1 or 2 the metallocenes are cationic, as evidenced by the inclusion of an anion in the general formula.

The metallocenes of the present invention can also be designed to produce polymers with very high tacticity indices depending on the desired tacticity. In order to produce tactically specific polymers from metallocenes of the present invention, the characteristics of the β -substituents on the bridged ligands are important. Thus, the "steric requirement" or "steric size" of the β -substituents can be designed to control the steric characteristics of metallocenes, so that the

arrangement of β -substituents allows control of the stereochemistry of each successive monomer addition.

It may also be possible to strategically arrange substituents with the proper steric properties on an appropriate carbon(s) of the metallocene of the present invention which should serve as chain end conformational locks (preferably positioned in the mouth of the ligand) and which could also confer solubility (ion pair separation for better catalyst activity and stereospecificity) and/or insolubility (for better control of polymer morphology), as desired. The bridged, substituted metallocenes are stereorigid, provide chain-end conformational locks, and are superior to those without such conformational locks.

Prior art has shown, for example, that a methyl substituent positioned at the α -Cp position on the C₅ ring of bisindenyl catalysts increases the molecular weight of isotactic polypropylene produced with the Et[Ind]₂ZrCl₂ based catalyst. Similarly, a methyl substituent on the C₆ ring of the indenyl ring system has reduced the stereospecificity; depending on the positional isomerism.

Moreover, the addition of methyl, t-Bu, OMe and Ph substituents to the coordinating groups of the ligand and to the bridging group R" have had steric, solubility and electronic influences on catalysts in syndiotactic and isotactic specific polymerizations.

By making the sterically larger β -substituents different and/or the sterically smaller β -substituents different, the tacticoselective versions of the metallocenes of the present invention can be designed to impart any degree of tacticity to the resulting polymers. Thus, if one β -substituent is t-butyl and another is ethyl, and the other two are methyls, the tacticospecificity of the metallocenes will be reduced relative to the one having two t-butyls and two methyls.

Of course, cationic metallocenes require the anion P to maintain their net neutrality. The anion P in the general formula is preferentially a compatible non-coordinating or pseudo-non-coordinating anion that either does not coordinate with the metallocene cation or only weakly coordinates to the cation, yet remains sufficiently labile so that it can be readily displaced by a neutral Lewis base such as a monomer unit. Compatible non-coordinating or pseudo-noncoordinating anions are described as anions that stabilize the cationic metallocenes, but do not transfer an electron or electron equivalent to the cation to produce a neutral metallocene and a neutral byproduct of the non-coordinating or pseudo-non-coordinating anion.

The useful size of the counterion P also depends on the bulkiness or steric requirements of the ligands. In addition to size, other characteristics are important for good anions or counterions, such as stability and bonding. The anion must be

sufficiently stable so that it cannot be rendered neutral by virtue of the metallocene cation electron extraction and the bond strength with the cation must be sufficiently weak not interfere with monomer coordination and chain propagation.

A preferred procedure for producing cationic metallocenes of the present invention ($l=1$ or 2) involves the reaction of an ion-pair in a non-coordinating solvent with a metallocene of formula (I), where $l=0$. For example, triphenylcarbenium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl) boronate or a similar ion-pair may be reacted with a neutral metallocene of the present invention in a solvent such as toluene to generate the corresponding cationic metallocene. This preparation method is well known in the state of the art, as described for instance in U.S. Pat. No. 5,225,550.

A preferred application of the present invention is in the polymerization of alpha olefins, preferably ethylene and propylene, to produce highly linear, low, medium and high density polyethylene, as well as atactic, isotactic, syndiotactic, hemi-isotactic polypropylenes or mixtures thereof. However, the metallocenes of the invention may be used in the preparation of hemi-isotactic, isotactic or syndiotactic polymers obtained from other ethylenically unsaturated monomers. For example, syndiospecific, isospecific or hemi-isospecific polymers of 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1-hexene and styrene can be prepared using the metallocenes of the present invention.

Addition polymerizable monomers suitable for use in this invention include ethylenically unsaturated monomers or any organic molecule having a terminal vinyl group ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}$), such as α -olefins (e.g. propylene, 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1-hexene, 4-methyl-1-pentene), vinyl halides (e.g. vinyl fluoride and vinyl chloride), vinyl arenes (e.g. styrene, alkylated styrenes, halogenated styrenes and haloalkylated styrenes), dienes (e.g. 1,3-butadiene and isoprene). Polyethylene and polypropylene are probably of the greatest practical significance and the invention will be described in detail with reference to the production of polyethylenes and/or polypropylene polymers, but it should be understood that this invention is generally applicable to all addition polymerizable monomers. These catalysts may also be useful in the polymerization of dienes to elastomers through the inclusion of 1,4-addition instead of 1,2-addition. Of course, these catalysts may also be useful in varying the relative amounts of 1,2-addition versus 1,4-addition polymers containing conjugated diene monomers.

The polymerization procedure using the metallocenes according to the present invention is carried out according to procedures known in the art, such as the one disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,892,851.

In the catalytic systems according to the present invention the metallocenes according to the present invention are used in association with various co-catalysts. Although many of the

species are active alone, they can be activated upon the addition of various cocatalysts. Co-catalysts, usually organo-aluminum compounds such as trialkylaluminum, trialkyloxyaluminum, dialkylaluminum halides or alkylaluminum dihalides may be used in the present invention. Especially suitable alkylaluminums are trimethylaluminum and triethylaluminum (TEAL), the latter being the most preferred. Methylalumoxane (MAO) is also usable in carrying out the methods of the present invention, especially for neutral metallocenes, in amounts well in excess of the stoichiometric equivalent.

The alumoxanes are polymeric aluminum compounds which can be represented by the general formulae $(R-Al-O)_n$, which is a cyclic compound, and $R(R-Al-O--)_n-AlR_2$, which is a linear compound, where R is a C₁-C₅ alkyl group, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl and pentyl, and n is an integer from 1 to 20. Most preferably, R is methyl and n is 4.

Generally, in the preparation of alumoxanes from aluminum trialkyl and water, a mixture of the linear and cyclic compounds is obtained. The alumoxane can be prepared in various ways. Preferably, they are prepared by contacting water with a solution of aluminum trialkyl, such as, for example, aluminum trimethyl, in a suitable organic solvent, such as benzene or an aliphatic hydrocarbon. For example, the aluminum alkyl is treated with water in the form of a moist solvent. In an alternative method, the aluminum alkyl can be contacted with a

hydrated salt, such as hydrated copper sulfate. Preferably, the alumoxane is prepared in the presence of a hydrated copper sulfate: a dilute solution of aluminum trimethyl in toluene is treated with copper sulfate represented by the general formula CuSO₄·5H₂O. The ratio of copper sulfate to aluminum trimethyl is desirably about 1 mole of copper sulfate for 4 to 5 moles of aluminum trimethyl. The reaction is evidenced by the evolution of methane.

The ratio of aluminum in the alumoxane to total metal in the metallocene can be in the range of 0.5:1 to 10,000:1, and preferably 5:1 to 1000:1. The solvents used in the preparation of the catalytic systems of the invention are preferably inert hydrocarbons, in particular hydrocarbons inert with respect to the metallocene.

Such solvents are well known and include, for example, isobutane, butane, pentane, hexane, heptane, octane, cyclohexane, methylcyclohexane, toluene and xylene. As a further control and refinement of polymer molecular weight, one can vary the alumoxane concentration: higher concentrations of alumoxane in the catalytic system of the invention result in higher polymer product molecular weight.

Since, in accordance with this invention, one can produce high viscosity polymer products at relatively high temperature, temperature does not constitute a limiting parameter as with the prior art metallocene/alumoxane catalyst. The catalytic systems described herein, therefore, are suitable for the

polymerization of olefins in solution, slurry or gas phase polymerizations and over a wide range of temperatures and pressures. For example, such temperatures may be in the range of -60°C to 280°C and preferably in the range of 50°C to 160°C. The pressures employed in the process of the present invention are those usually employed in the state of the art, preferably in the range of 1 to 500 atmospheres and greater.

In a solution phase polymerization, the alumoxane is preferably dissolved in a suitable solvent, typically an inert hydrocarbon solvent such as toluene and xylene, in molar ratios of about 5×10^{-3} M. However, greater or lesser amounts can be used. The soluble metallocenes of the invention can be converted to supported heterogeneous catalytic systems by depositing said metallocenes on catalyst supports known in the art, such as silica, alumina and polyethylene. The solid catalytic systems, in combination with an alumoxane, can be usefully employed in slurry and gas phase olefin polymerizations.

After polymerization and deactivation of the catalyst, the obtained polymer can be recovered by processes well known in the art for removal of deactivated catalysts and solution. The solvents may be flashed off from the polymer solution and the polymer obtained extruded into water and cut into pellets or other suitable comminuted shapes. Pigments, antioxidants and other additives, as is known in the art, may be added to the polymer.

The polymer product obtained in accordance with the process of the invention have a weight average molecular weight ranging from about 500 to about 1,400,000 and preferably from about 1000 to 500,000. The molecular weight distribution (M_w/M_n) ranges preferably from 1.5 to 4, but higher values can be obtained. The polymers contain 1.0 chain end unsaturation per molecule. Broadened MW can be obtained by employing two or more of the metallocenes of this invention in combination with the alumoxane. The polymers produced by the process of this present invention are capable of being fabricated into a wide variety of articles, as is known for polymer products derived from addition polymerizable monomers.

The metallocene used in the present invention may be prepared by procedures known in the art, as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,892,851, while the active cationic metallocenes may be produced by simply converting the neutral metallocenes into the cationic state following known procedures, such as those disclosed in EP 0 277 003 and 0 277 004 or by reaction with triphenylcarbenium boronates. Similarly, alcohol - $B(PhF_5)_3$ complexes can be used as anionic precursors for preparing the active cationic metallocenes of the present invention where the alcoholic proton reacts with an amine of an alkyl group on the coordinating metal atoms to generate a cationic metallocene and an alkoxide - $B(PhF_5)_3$ anion.

The metallocenes of this invention can also be converted to supported heterogeneous catalytic systems by depositing the

catalysts on supports including, without limitation, silica, alumina, magnesium dichloride and polystyrene beads. Supported metallocenes can improve the bulk density of the polymer, as further described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,935,474 and 4,530,914, and EP 0 427 697 and 0 426 638.

The metallocenes of the invention can also be chemically linked to support by placing functional groups with ion pairs or Lewis acid centers or Lewis base centers on the ligands and/or supports. Supporting can also be achieved by using large (oligomeric or polymeric) insoluble anions as counter ions.

The metallocene of the present invention can be used to prepare low, medium and high molecular weight polymers, low, moderate and high density polymers, elastomers, aspecific, isospecific, syndiospecific and/or hemi-isospecific polymers, not only of propylene, but of all α -olefins, such as 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1-hexene, 4-methyl-1-pentene and $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_p\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, where p is 1 to 4. Additionally, the metallocenes of this invention can polymerize singly or in mixtures all addition polymerizable monomers including vinyl monomers and diene monomers.

One of ordinary skill should recognize that the metallocenes of the invention, that can give rise to isoselective catalysts, can be separated into a *meso* form, which is asymmetric, and a *rac* form that is selective to isotactic polymers. The stereospecific *rac* metallocenes can be separated from the *meso* form by crystallization. It is well known from the Bercaw et

al. (*J. Ann. Cherry Soc.* 1992, 1 14, 7607 J.E. Bercaw and E.B. Coughlin.) that rac-metallocenes, free of the undesirable aspecific meso stereoisomers, can be prepared by placing suitable bulky substituents, such as Si(Me)₃, on the ligand atoms in α position to the bridgehead atom.

The metallocenes of the present invention can be used alone or in mixture with other metallocene catalysts, TiCl₃/DEAC and/or TiCl₄/MgCl₂/TEAL catalysts having internal electron donors such as diisobutylyphthalate, and external donors, such as diphenyldimethoxysilane and methanol to produce polymers with mixed stereochemical compositions, distributions or tailored molecular weight distributions. Reactor blends of polymers with optimized physical, thermal, mechanical and rheological properties can be tailored to produce the optimum mixture for specific applications requiring high melt strength, high clarity, high impact strength and high rates of crystallization, simply by mixing catalytic species together in appropriate ratios.

The metallocenes of the present invention influence the rate of termination by β -hydride elimination reactions. This, therefore, provides a novel ligand effect for controlling polymer molecular weights. These metallocenes can be exploited to tailor molecular weights and hence molecular weight distributions with mixed species of the catalysts and any other class of catalysts. This would be advantageous in tailoring the

polymer properties in HDPE, LLDPE, i-PP, s-PP, etc. Similarly the chain-end conformation locking substituent will influence the rate of reactivity of the new metallocenes with α -olefins such as propylene, butene and hexene. The new ligand effects on the catalyst reactivity ratios can be exploited to produce reactor blends with varying compositions, sequences, distributions and/or molecular weight distributions. The metallocenes of the present invention provide improved tailored grades of polypropylene and propylene-ethylene high impact copolymers, as reactor blends or from reactors in series, including fluidized and stirred gas phase polymerizations.

The metallocenes of the present invention can also be used to produce copolymers of olefins and copolymers of olefins and dienes with varying degrees of tactic specificity.

Hereinafter is described a general process for the preparation of the metallocenes of the present invention. In said process, it is important that the metallocene is "pure", because low molecular weight, amorphous polymers can be produced by impure metallocenes.

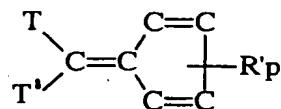
Generally, the preparation of metallocenes comprises forming and isolating the ligand (bridged or unbridged), which is then aromatized or deprotonated to form a delocalized electron system or an hetero anion, and subsequently reacted with a metal halide or alkylide to form the final complex.

The synthesis procedures are generally performed under an inert gas atmosphere, using a glove box or Schlenk techniques. The synthesis process generally comprises the steps of 1) preparing the halogenated or alkylated metal compound, 2) preparing the ligand, 3) synthesizing the complex, and 4) purifying the complex.

The synthesis of the bridged ligands of the present invention having the β -substituted Cp can be prepared by contacting a suitable substituted fulvene with a suitable substituted cyclopentadienyl containing an anion ring, under reaction conditions sufficient to produce a bridged structure, to yield ligands with either C_2 or C_s or pseudo- C_2 or pseudo C_s symmetry.

Fulvene is cyclopentadiene with an exo-cyclic methylene group at the 1 position of cyclopentadiene ring. The exo-cyclic methylene carbon is the 6 position of fulvene. Since this carbon can ultimately become the bridging group R'' in formula (I), the preferred fulvenes for the preparation of the present metallocenes are 6,6-disubstituted fulvenes so that the resulting bridging group is a tertiary carbon atom.

The fulvenes useful in preparing the ligands of the present invention have substituents in the 3 and 4 positions Q and are generally 6,6 disubstituted, while the other sites can be substituted or unsubstituted as shown below:



where R'p is the substituent on the resulting Cp ring and where the T, T' and the exocyclic carbon (C6 in fulvene) are the precursors of the structural bridging group R".

As noted previously, a preferred method of converting the neutral metallocenes to cationic metallocenes useful in the present invention involves reaction of the neutral metallocenes with a triphenylcarbenium boronate. A preferred reactant is triphenylcarbenium tetrakis (pentafluorophenyl) boronate.

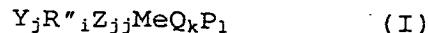
The catalysts of the present invention can also be used to prepare pre-polymerized catalysts according to methods known in the art, such as the one disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,893,989, 4,200,171, 4,287,328, 4,316,966 and 5,122,583. The pre-polymerized catalysts can be prepared in the presence of cocatalysts, such as the ones described previously and optionally in the presence of various electron donors.

Preferred pre-polymerized metallocenes of the present invention have a weight ratio of polymer/metallocene of approximately 0.1 - 100; ratios of less than 10 are particularly preferred. The syntheses are conveniently done at room temperature or lower in low boiling solvents which are readily evaporated *in vacuo*.

EXPERIMENTAL PART

CLAIMS

1. A metallocene of formula (I):



wherein

- (1) Y is a coordinating group containing a six π electron central radical directly coordinating Me, to which are associated one or more radicals containing at least one non-carbon atom selected from B, N, O, Al, Si, P, S, Ga, Ge, As, Se, In, Sn, Sb and Te;
- (2) R'' is a divalent bridge between the Y and Z groups;
- (3) Z is a coordinating group having the same meaning as Y or is an open pentadienyl containing group, a cyclopentadienyl containing group, a heterocyclopentadienyl containing group, a nitrogen containing group, a phosphorous containing group, an oxygen containing group or a sulfur containing group;
- (4) Me is an element belonging to Group 3, 4, 5, 6 or to the lanthanide or actinide series of the Periodic Table of the Elements;
- (5) Q is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl radical, aryl radical, alkylaryl radical, arylalkyl radical or an halogen atom;
- (6) P is a stable non-coordinating or pseudo non-coordinating counterion;
- (7) i is an integer having a value of 0 or 1;
- (8) j is an integer having a value from 1 to 3;

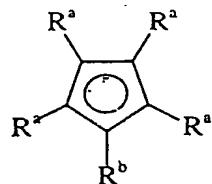
(9) jj is an integer having a value from 0 to 2;

(10) k is an integer having a value from 1 to 3; and

(11) l is an integer having a value from 0 to 2.

2. The metallocene according to claim 1, characterized in that Y contains an heterocyclic ring fused to said central six π electron central radical.

3. The metallocene according to claim 2, characterised in that Y is a substituted cyclopentadienyl group of formula:



wherein the groups R^a, identical or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, C₃-C₂₀-cycloalkyl, C₆-C₂₀-aryl, C₇-C₂₀-alkylaryl and C₇-C₂₀-arylalkyl radicals, and wherein at least two adjacent R^a groups form a condensed heterocyclic C₅-C₇ ring containing at least one non-carbon atom selected from B, N, O, Al, Si, P, S, Ga, Ge, As, Se, In, Sn, Sb and Te;

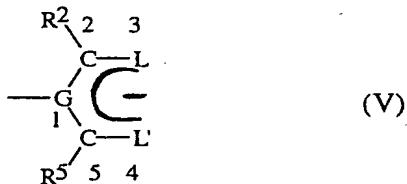
R^b is hydrogen, halogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, C₁-C₂₀-alkoxyl, C₆-C₂₀-aryl, C₇-C₂₀-alkylaryl, C₇-C₂₀-arylalkyl C₁-C₂₀ acyloxyl group, optionally containing a silicon atom, or R^b is the bridging divalent group R".

4. The metallocene according to claim 1, characterized in that Y contains at least two heteroatoms.

5. The metallocene according to claim 1, wherein i is 1, j is 1 and Z has the same meaning as Y.

6. The metallocene according to claim 1, wherein i is 1, j is 1 and Z is a Cp containing group, an Op containing group, a nitrogen containing group, a phosphorus containing group, an oxygen containing group or a sulfur containing group.

7. The metallocenes according to claim 1, characterized in that group Z is an open-pentadienyl containing group and it comprises a radical of formula (V):



where:

G is a carbon atom, a nitrogen atom, a silicon atom or a phosphorus atom;

L is a CR³R^{3'} radical, a SiR³R^{3'} radical, a NR^{3''} radical, a PR^{3''} radical, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom and L' is a CR⁴R^{4'} radical, a Si R⁴R^{4'} radical, a NR^{4''} radical, a PR^{4''} radical, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

R², R³, R^{3'}, R^{3''}, R⁴, R^{4'}, R^{4''} and R⁵, same or different from each other, can be hydrogen, a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbon radical, a linear or branched, C₁-C₂₀ halocarbon radical, a C₁-C₂₀ hydrohalocarbon radical, a C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy radical, a C₃-C₁₂

cyclohydrocarbon radical, a C₃-C₁₂ cyclohydrohalocarbon radical, a C₆-C₂₀ aryl radical, a C₇-C₂₀ alkylaryl radical, a C₇-C₂₀ arylalkyl radical, a silicon hydrocarbon radical, a germanium hydrocarbon radical, a phosphorous hydrocarbon radical, a nitrogen hydrocarbon radical, a boron hydrocarbon radical, an aluminum hydrocarbon radical or a halogen atom; R² and R³, R^{3'} or R^{3''} and/or R⁴ and R^{4'} or R^{4''} can form together a 4 to 6 membered ring or a 6 to 20 fused ring system; R³, R^{3'}, or R^{3''} and R⁴, R^{4'}, or R^{4''} can be joined together so that the five numbered atomic centers of the six π electron central radical are part of a 7 to 20 membered ring system.

8. The metallocene according to claim 1, wherein i is 1, j is 1, and at least one β substituent on either Y or Z is a bulky group sterically larger than hydrogen or a fluorine atom.
9. The metallocene according to claim 1, wherein i is 1, j is 1, and where both Y and Z are bilaterally or pseudo-bilaterally symmetric and where Y or Z has at least one β substituent larger than hydrogen.
10. The metallocene according to claim 1, wherein i is 1, j is 1, and where one or both Y and Z are not bilaterally or pseudo-bilaterally symmetric, Y or Z having at least one β substituent larger than hydrogen.
11. The metallocene according to claim 10, having Cs or pseudo-Cs symmetry.

12. A ligand of formula (II):

wherein

- (1) Y is a coordinating group containing a six π electron central radical directly coordinating Me, to which are associated one or more radicals containing at least one non-carbon atom selected from B, N, O, Al, Si, P, S, Ga, Ge, As, Se, In, Sn, Sb and Te;
- (2) R'' is a divalent bridge between the Y and Z groups;
- (3) Z is a coordinating group having the same meaning as Y or is an open pentadienyl containing group, a cyclopentadienyl containing group, a heterocyclopentadienyl containing group, a nitrogen containing group, a phosphorous containing group, an oxygen containing group or a sulfur containing group;
- (4) i is an integer having a value of 0 or 1;
- (5) j is an integer having a value from 1 to 3; and
- (6) jj is an integer having a value from 0 to 2;

13. A catalytic system for the polymerization of addition polymerisable monomers, comprising the reaction product between:

-an heterocyclic metallocene as described in anyone of claims 1 to 11, and

-a suitable co-catalyst.

14. The catalytic system according to claim 13, characterized in that said co-catalyst is selected from the group consisting

of trialkylaluminum, trialkyloxyaluminum, dialkylaluminumhalides and alkylaluminumdihalides.

15. The catalytic system according to claim 13, characterized in that said co-catalyst is an alumoxane.

16. A process for polymerizing addition polymerizable monomers, comprising contacting at least one catalytic system, as described in anyone of claims 13-15, with at least one addition polymerizable monomer.

17. The process according to claim 16, comprising contacting the metallocene contained in said catalytic system with a suitable co-catalyst, either prior to or after said metallocene is brought into contact with the monomer.

18. The process according to claim 16, comprising the following steps:

a) contacting said catalytic system with a small amount of said addition polymerizable monomer, to form a pre-polymerized catalyst;

b) contacting the pre-polymerized catalyst obtained in step (a) with said addition polymerizable monomers.

19. The process according to claim 16, for the production of polyethylene, isotactic, syndiotactic, hemi-isotactic or atactic polypropylene, or copolymers thereof.

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